

Adult Bible Class
Study of Exodus, Lesson 15
June 8, 2025

Exodus Chapter 29

This chapter contains the instructions for the ceremony of consecrating Aaron and his sons for the priesthood of Israel. These instructions were actually carried out as described in Leviticus 8.

Exodus 29:1 (NLT) “This is the ceremony you must follow when you consecrate Aaron and his sons to serve me as priests: Take a young bull and two rams with no defects. **2** Then, using choice wheat flour and no yeast, make loaves of bread, thin cakes mixed with olive oil, and wafers spread with oil. **3** Place them all in a single basket, and present them at the entrance of the Tabernacle, along with the young bull and the two rams.

The consecration ceremony involved sacrifice and fellowship. Sacrificial animals were needed as well as unleavened bread.

4 “Present Aaron and his sons at the entrance of the Tabernacle, and wash them with water.

The ceremony began with washing. The priests were completely washed with water. This took place at the door of the Tabernacle. After this ceremony, the priests were to wash their hands and their feet during their daily ministrations.

This is a picture of water baptism which cleanses the believer.

5 Dress Aaron in his priestly garments—the tunic, the robe worn with the ephod, the ephod itself, and the chestpiece. Then wrap the decorative sash of the ephod around him. **6** Place the turban on his head, and fasten the sacred medallion to the turban. **7** Then anoint him by pouring the anointing oil over his head. **8** Next present his sons, and dress them in their tunics. **9** Wrap the sashes around the waists of Aaron and his sons, and put their special head coverings on them. Then the right to the priesthood will be theirs by law forever. In this way, you will ordain Aaron and his sons.

Next, the priest needed to be clothed with the garments commanded by God and made especially for him. Then he was anointed with a special anointing oil (olive oil mixed with certain spices). This anointing oil is a picture of the anointing and power of God’s Holy Spirit.

New Testament Christians also have an anointing that comes from the baptism of the Holy Spirit. First John 2:20 says, *“But you have an anointing from the Holy One. . .”*

10 “Bring the young bull to the entrance of the Tabernacle, where Aaron and his sons will lay their hands on its head. **11** Then slaughter the bull in the Lord’s presence at the entrance of the Tabernacle. **12** Put some of its blood on the horns of the altar with your finger, and pour out the rest at the base of the altar. **13** Take all the fat around the internal organs, the long lobe of the liver, and the two kidneys and the fat around them, and burn it all on the altar. **14** Then take the rest of the bull, including its hide, meat, and dung, and burn it outside the camp as a sin offering.

There are five different kinds of sacrifices described in Leviticus. One of them is the “sin offering.” The priests laid their hands on the bull, transferring sin to the

animal. Then, that animal was killed as punishment for the guilty. Some of the blood was used to cleanse the altar of sacrifice. Then the fat from the animal (considered the best part) was burned on the altar and the rest of the animal was taken outside the camp and burned as a sin offering.

Jesus, our offering for sin, died in our place “outside the camp,” meaning that he was crucified just outside the city of Jerusalem. He bore our sins, but he triumphed over death when he arose from the grave.

The next animal sacrifice is another type of offering - a whole burnt offering.

Exodus 29:15 “Next Aaron and his sons must lay their hands on the head of one of the rams.

16 Then slaughter the ram, and splatter its blood against all sides of the altar. **17** Cut the ram into pieces, and wash off the internal organs and the legs. Set them alongside the head and the other pieces of the body, **18** then burn the entire animal on the altar. This is a burnt offering to the Lord; it is a pleasing aroma, a special gift presented to the Lord.

A “whole burnt offering” is also described in Leviticus. It is an offering of total commitment. Jesus gave His all for us, and we should give our all for Him. The priests were to give their all to their calling for the nation of Israel.

The next animal sacrifice is yet another type of offering - a peace offering or fellowship offering.

19 “Now take the other ram, and have Aaron and his sons lay their hands on its head. **20** Then slaughter it, and apply some of its blood to the right earlobes of Aaron and his sons. Also put it on the thumbs of their right hands and the big toes of their right feet. Splatter the rest of the blood against all sides of the altar. **21** Then take some of the blood from the altar and some of the anointing oil, and sprinkle it on Aaron and his sons and on their garments. In this way, they and their garments will be set apart as holy.

Once again, the priests laid their hands on the head of this animal, identifying with the sacrifice. Some of the blood was put on the right earlobes, thumbs, and big toes. While this may sound strange, it had special meaning. Aaron and his sons were to cleanse what they heard, what they did, and where they walked.

The anointing oil was then mixed with blood and sprinkled on their special garments. The blood and the oil work together to “set them apart” as priests unto God.

22 “Since this is the ram for the ordination of Aaron and his sons, take the fat of the ram, including the fat of the broad tail, the fat around the internal organs, the long lobe of the liver, and the two kidneys and the fat around them, along with the right thigh. **23** Then take one round loaf of bread, one thin cake mixed with olive oil, and one wafer from the basket of bread without yeast that was placed in the Lord’s presence. **24** Put all these in the hands of Aaron and his sons to be lifted up as a special offering to the Lord. **25** Afterward take the various breads from their hands, and burn them on the altar along with the burnt offering. It is a pleasing aroma to the Lord, a special gift for him. **26** Then take the breast of Aaron’s ordination ram, and lift it up in the Lord’s presence as a special offering to him. Then keep it as your own portion.

27 “Set aside the portions of the ordination ram that belong to Aaron and his sons. This includes the breast and the thigh that were lifted up before the Lord as a special offering. **28** In the future, whenever the people of Israel lift up a peace offering, a portion of it must be set aside for Aaron and his descendants. This is their permanent right, and it is a sacred offering from the Israelites to the Lord.

The best parts of the ram along with the bread were waved before the Lord, then burned on the altar along with the burnt offering. Then certain parts of the ram were given to the priests for their food for the day. God commanded that certain portions of the peace offerings were to be food for the priests - it was their right and privilege.

The peace offering was always in two parts - God got His part and the priests got their part. It is symbolic in that we need to “take in Christ,” continuing our relationship with Him. A life of the Spirit must be fed and sustained. We need Jesus everyday.

Exodus 29:29 “Aaron’s sacred garments must be preserved for his descendants who succeed him, and they will wear them when they are anointed and ordained. **30** The descendant who succeeds him as high priest will wear these clothes for seven days as he ministers in the Tabernacle and the Holy Place.

Future generations of priests will be consecrated the same way - in this weeklong process.

31 “Take the ram used in the ordination ceremony, and boil its meat in a sacred place. **32** Then Aaron and his sons will eat this meat, along with the bread in the basket, at the Tabernacle entrance. **33** They alone may eat the meat and bread used for their purification in the ordination ceremony. No one else may eat them, for these things are set apart and holy. **34** If any of the ordination meat or bread remains until the morning, it must be burned. It may not be eaten, for it is holy.

35 “This is how you will ordain Aaron and his sons to their offices, just as I have commanded you. The ordination ceremony will go on for seven days. **36** Each day you must sacrifice a young bull as a sin offering to purify them, making them right with the Lord. Afterward, cleanse the altar by purifying it; make it holy by anointing it with oil. **37** Purify the altar, and consecrate it every day for seven days. After that, the altar will be absolutely holy, and whatever touches it will become holy.

The ceremony continued for seven days, offering a bull each day. Only the priests could eat the peace offering and the sacred bread. In Leviticus, it further states that those purchased or born in the house of the priest could also eat the sacred offerings (Lev. 22:10-11).

We have been purchased by the blood of the Lamb, and we have been born again into God’s family. Therefore, we have a right to the sacred offerings of our High Priest, Jesus Christ.

The next passage gives instructions to the priests concerning daily offerings in Israel.

38 “These are the sacrifices you are to offer regularly on the altar. Each day, offer two lambs that are a year old, **39** one in the morning and the other in the evening. **40** With one of them, offer two quarts of choice flour mixed with one quart of pure oil of pressed olives; also, offer one quart of wine as a liquid offering. **41** Offer the other lamb in the evening, along with the same offerings of flour and wine as in the morning. It will be a pleasing aroma, a special gift presented to the Lord.

The priests were to present a morning and an evening sacrifice. They were whole burnt offerings, offerings of total commitment. This is a picture of our daily service to God.

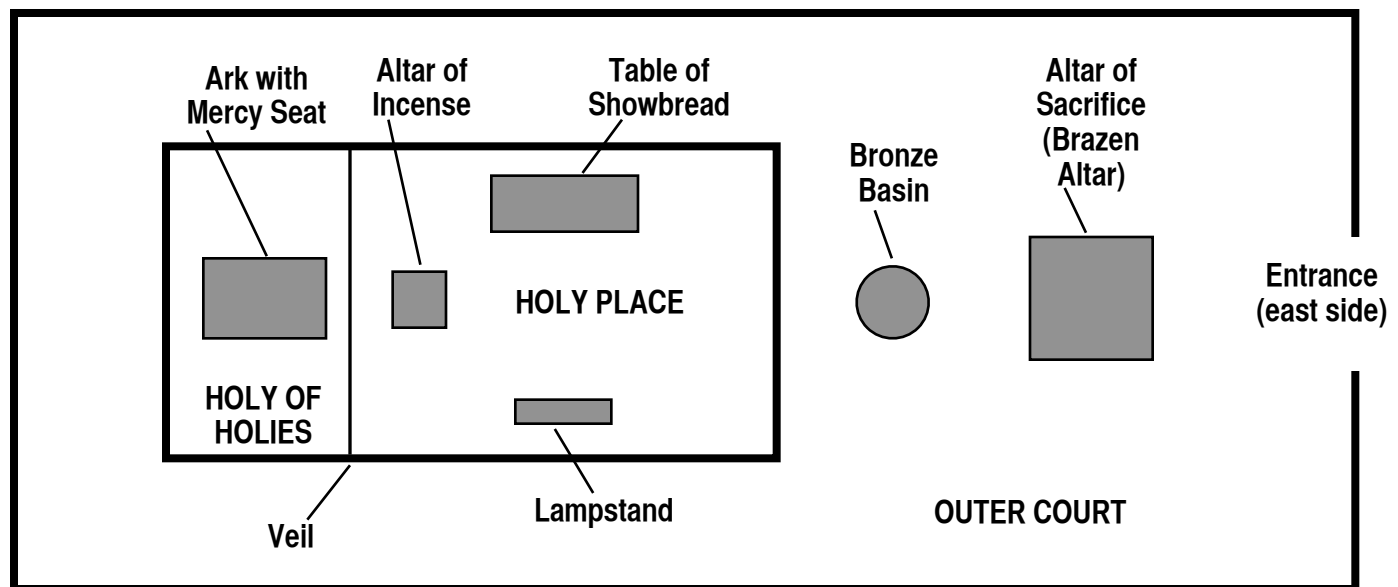
Exodus 29:42 "These burnt offerings are to be made each day from generation to generation. Offer them in the Lord's presence at the Tabernacle entrance; there I will meet with you and speak with you. **43** I will meet the people of Israel there, in the place made holy by my glorious presence. **44** Yes, I will consecrate the Tabernacle and the altar, and I will consecrate Aaron and his sons to serve me as priests. **45** Then I will live among the people of Israel and be their God, **46** and they will know that I am the Lord their God. I am the one who brought them out of the land of Egypt so that I could live among them. I am the Lord their God.

Exodus Chapter 30

There is much symbolism and typology in the different pieces of furniture in the Tabernacle (and later the Temple). We have studied the Altar of Sacrifice (the brazen or bronze altar) which is the first piece of furniture that the priest encounters after entering through the Tabernacle entrance on the east side. It is here at the Altar of Sacrifice where the approach to God begins. Animals were killed and blood was shed - remission of sins began with the shedding of blood. Animal blood satisfied God, looking ahead and pushing ahead until the perfect Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, gave His life and His blood on the cross once for all. When the priest approaches God, the first step is the brazen altar, the altar of sacrifice.

Exodus 30 describes another altar - the Altar of Incense. Notice its location right in front of the veil leading into the Holy of Holies.

THE OLD TESTAMENT TABERNACLE



Exodus 30:1 (NLT) "Then make another altar of acacia wood for burning incense. 2 Make it 18 inches square and 36 inches high, with horns at the corners carved from the same piece of wood as the altar itself. 3 Overlay the top, sides, and horns of the altar with pure gold, and run a gold molding around the entire altar. 4 Make two gold rings, and attach them on opposite sides of the altar below the gold molding to hold the carrying poles. 5 Make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. 6 Place the incense altar just outside the inner curtain that shields the Ark of the Covenant, in front of the Ark's cover—the place of atonement—that covers the tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant. I will meet with you there.

7 "Every morning when Aaron maintains the lamps, he must burn fragrant incense on the altar. 8 And each evening when he lights the lamps, he must again burn incense in the Lord's presence. This must be done from generation to generation. 9 Do not offer any unholy incense on this altar, or any burnt offerings, grain offerings, or liquid offerings.

Exodus 30:10 "Once a year Aaron must purify the altar by smearing its horns with blood from the offering made to purify the people from their sin. This will be a regular, annual event from generation to generation, for this is the Lord's most holy altar."

The Altar of Incense was not a place of sacrifice of animals, but a place of offering incense. This is a picture of offering sweet prayers and intercession to God. Aaron was to burn incense on this altar in the morning and the evening. Offering incense in the Bible is a type or picture of prayer:

Psalms 141:2 (NKJV) Let my prayer be set before You as incense . . .

Revelation 8:3 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. **4** And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

Revelation 5:8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Once a year the Altar of Incense was to be purified by blood. This shows the power of the blood even in prayer - to cleanse, save and heal. The presence of the blood makes our prayers acceptable to God.

The type of incense that was burned on the altar had to be acceptable to God. Our prayer should be in a manner that is pleasing to God. Jesus taught us how to pray using the Lord's Prayer as an example (Matthew 6:9).

Money for the Tabernacle

Exodus 30:11 Then the Lord said to Moses, **12** "Whenever you take a census of the people of Israel, each man who is counted must pay a ransom for himself to the Lord. Then no plague will strike the people as you count them. **13** Each person who is counted must give a small piece of silver as a sacred offering to the Lord. (This payment is half a shekel, based on the sanctuary shekel, which equals twenty gerahs.) **14** All who have reached their twentieth birthday must give this sacred offering to the Lord. **15** When this offering is given to the Lord to purify your lives, making you right with him, the rich must not give more than the specified amount, and the poor must not give less. **16** Receive this ransom money from the Israelites, and use it for the care of the Tabernacle. It will bring the Israelites to the Lord's attention, and it will purify your lives."

Taking a census in Israel put the people at risk of suffering a plague. The reason for this was that the people of Israel belonged to God, and God could bring them a military victory no matter the size of their army. They were to trust God and His Word; they were not to trust in man. Only God could command a census to



count them because they belonged to Him. Therefore, God specified a certain procedure even when He commanded a census. Later in Israel's history, David commanded a census without following the proper procedure and death and trouble was the result (2 Samuel 24:1-25).

The "ransom" money or "atonement" money was a half shekel (just a few cents). It was given (according to verse 15) to make a person right with God. Therefore, it typifies salvation - the thing that makes all men right with God. Regarding this ransom money, the rich were not to give more, nor the poor to give less.

Each man's soul, whether rich or poor, is valuable, and God is no respecter of persons. In other offerings, men were to give according to their financial abilities, but this - the ransom of the soul - the amount was alike for all. Each person is also conscious of his sins and not deserving to be numbered among God's people without the ransom payment which purifies.

The money was used for the care of the Tabernacle. Those who gave would benefit by it. In this New Testament age, money cannot be used to "buy atonement" - by no means. But the picture is that each person needs the same atonement from God.

Many Bible commentators believe this evolved into the "Temple tax" that was spoken of in Matthew:

Matthew 17:24 (NLT) On their arrival in Capernaum, the collectors of the Temple tax came to Peter and asked him, "Doesn't your teacher pay the Temple tax?"

25 "Yes, he does," Peter replied. Then he went into the house.

But before he had a chance to speak, Jesus asked him, "What do you think, Peter? Do kings tax their own people or the people they have conquered?"

26 "They tax the people they have conquered," Peter replied.

"Well, then," Jesus said, "the citizens are free! **27** However, we don't want to offend them, so go down to the lake and throw in a line. Open the mouth of the first fish you catch, and you will find a large silver coin. Take it and pay the tax for both of us."

Let's continue in Exodus:

Plans for the Washbasin

Exodus 30:17 (NKJV) Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: **18** "You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting

Laver



and the altar. And you shall put water in it, **19** for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it. **20** When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the Lord, they shall wash with water, lest they die. **21** So they shall wash their hands and their feet, lest they die. And it shall be a statute forever to them—to him and his descendants throughout their generations.”

The next piece of furniture that the priest approached after the Altar of Sacrifice was the Bronze Basin. We read earlier that the priest during his ordination ceremony was completely washed. Now the priests were to wash their hands and their feet at the Bronze Basin or Brazen Laver. This washing is a picture of water baptism in the New Testament. This is typified in the Tabernacle plan before entering the main tent of the Tabernacle which contains the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies.

Later in Exodus we will read that the bronze used to make the bronze washbasin was made from the bronze mirrors of the Israelite women who voluntarily gave them up. This is a picture that each person must “look at himself,” looking into the mirror of the Word of God and seeing his sin and self-will. Then God can wash and cleanse that person. Then he is able to approach the presence of God:

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 9:17 And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” **18** Immediately there fell from his eyes *something* like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

As we look at the drawing of the Tabernacle furniture, we see the path that the priest had to walk to reach the Holy Place. The priests ministered daily in the Holy Place with its Table of Showbread, Lampstand, and Altar of Incense. However, a veil separated them from the presence of God. Only the High Priest could enter through the veil into the Holy of Holies, and even then it was only once a year. The Holy of Holies, which contained the Ark of the Covenant where the presence of God dwelt was off limits.

Because of what Jesus did for us at Calvary, becoming our sacrifice and our High Priest, we can now enter through the veil as priests of this New Covenant and enter into the very presence of God. That is the goal!

Matthew 27:50 (NKJV) And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, **52** and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;

Hebrews 6:19 This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, **20** where the forerunner has entered for us, *even* Jesus, having become High Priest forever ...

Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, **20** by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,

21 and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Let's continue in Exodus:

The Anointing Oil

Exodus 30:22 (NLT) Then the Lord said to Moses, **23** "Collect choice spices—12 1/2 pounds of pure myrrh, 6 1/4 pounds of fragrant cinnamon, 6 1/4 pounds of fragrant calamus, **24** and 12 1/2 pounds of cassia—as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel. Also get one gallon of olive oil. **25** Like a skilled incense maker, blend these ingredients to make a holy anointing oil. **26** Use this sacred oil to anoint the Tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant, **27** the table and all its utensils, the lampstand and all its accessories, the incense altar, **28** the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the washbasin with its stand. **29** Consecrate them to make them absolutely holy. After this, whatever touches them will also become holy.

30 "Anoint Aaron and his sons also, consecrating them to serve me as priests. **31** And say to the people of Israel, 'This holy anointing oil is reserved for me from generation to generation. **32** It must never be used to anoint anyone else, and you must never make any blend like it for yourselves. It is holy, and you must treat it as holy. **33** Anyone who makes a blend like it or anoints someone other than a priest will be cut off from the community.'"

This holy anointing oil was to be used in the Tabernacle. The formula was for Tabernacle use only. Everything in the Tabernacle (including the priests) had to be anointed with it. This oil symbolizes the Holy Spirit of God, which in New Testament doctrine, should fill every believer of Jesus Christ.

There was only "one blend" of holy anointing oil. God very strictly warns that if anyone makes another blend of it or anoints someone other than a priest with it they will be cut off.

In New Testament teaching, there is one baptism of the Holy Spirit, and it is the same for everyone.

Acts 19:1 And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples **2** he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

3 And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?"

So they said, "Into John's baptism."

4 Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6** And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. **7** Now the men were about twelve in all.

1 Corinthians 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, **10** nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Titus 3:4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, **5** not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, **6** whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Let's continue in Exodus:

The Incense

Exodus 30:34 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Gather fragrant spices—resin droplets, mollusk shell, and galbanum—and mix these fragrant spices with pure frankincense, weighed out in equal amounts. **35** Using the usual techniques of the incense maker, blend the spices together and sprinkle them with salt to produce a pure and holy incense. **36** Grind some of the mixture into a very fine powder and put it in front of the Ark of the Covenant, where I will meet with you in the Tabernacle. You must treat this incense as most holy. **37** Never use this formula to make this incense for yourselves. It is reserved for the Lord, and you must treat it as holy. **38** Anyone who makes incense like this for personal use will be cut off from the community."

In the New Testament, we read a story about something that happened by the Altar of Incense to one certain priest:

Luke 1:5 (NKJV) There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias . . . His wife *was* of the daughters of Aaron, and her name *was* Elizabeth. **6** And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. **7** But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

8 So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, **9** according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

10 And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. **11** Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. **12** And when Zacharias saw *him*, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. **14** And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. **15** For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. **16** And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. **17** He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

18 And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years."

19 And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. **20** But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time."

Luke 1:21 And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple. **22** But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless.

23 So it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. **24** Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, **25** "Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on *me*, to take away my reproach among people."